

hope the Government will consider these points and redress the grievances. I press the motion.

The resolution was put to the vote of the House and carried.

9. Cartable Bridge between Kumbalanghi and Palliviruthi.

The following resolution was not moved and hence it was considered withdrawn.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—“This Council do recommend to the Government that immediate steps be taken to construct a cartable bridge over the backwaters between Kumbalanghi and Pallivirutti so as to afford better and safer means of communication to the people of those localities.”

10. Ferry between Ernakulam and Cochin.

Mr K. P. Kannan Nayar.—The resolution standing in my name is as follows:—

“Whereas great inconvenience is experienced by the travelling public in crossing the ferry between Ernakulam and Cochin on account of the very round-about and sometimes risky route the boats have to take at present, this Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to remove the said inconvenience.”

In commending this resolution to the acceptance of this House, I don't think I need make any speech, because this inconvenience was brought to the notice of this House on several occasions and during the last Budget Session, if I remember right, the Government promised to take up the matter seriously and do something very urgently itself. It is only because I don't find anything tangible done that I wanted to press upon Government once more this inconvenience.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I beg to second this resolution and in doing so, I beg only to say that it is a very great necessity, for children are crossing and coming to the school, and women are coming over the ferry. Delicate women have to be brought and so, in all these cases they are very much afraid and they get nervous when they come to the mouth of the harbour and the waves make the boats shake and toss. Therefore, a safe channel has been insisted upon for the last 10 years and beyond the stage of discussion it has not gone through. That is the complaint. The discussion of providing a safe channel has not ended. Propositions are brought down and scrapped. Provisions are made and scrapped and therefore, it has become a very imminent necessity. We hope that before the monsoon sets in something will be done to effect a safe passage between Ernakulam and Cochin. A suggestion has been made that a boat may run from Ernakulam to Venduruthi reclamation and another from Venduruthi to Cochin. If facilities are provided to the travelling public we have no objection. But something should be done.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I beg to support this resolution, and in doing so I want only to invite the attention of this House to the budget discussion of last year. The facts are fully set out there and it will also be found that at the last stage there was a promise from the Government that the work will be taken up on the spot forthwith. That was perhaps the idea that they had then. But unfortunately it was not carried into execution. Of course, the Harbour authorities had to be consulted and there would have been some delay. But somehow or other it has been put off from day to day. So serious are the consequences—fortunately nothing has happened up to this moment by the circuitous route that the boats have now to take. As the Hon'ble Member said people become nervous when they come directly opposite to the mouth of the Harbour. Unless something is done beforehand, the consequences, of course God forbid it may not happen, may be serious; there is every possibility of danger. I support this resolution.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—Only two words. Apart from the two landing places, the boats cannot come very near the landing places and we have to put boats contiguous, and women and children have to cross them and there is danger when they cross the same in this way. I don't want to express anything more. I hope that something will be done at the landing places also.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I may perhaps say a few words to explain the reason why this proposition was first introduced in this Council. Sometime last year, during the monsoon the dredger 'Lord Willingdon' was working in the inner harbour and that necessitated the ferry boats to deviate from their original route and take to the more circuitous one. Well, that route was certainly more exposed than it used to be originally and then the danger for navigation was really bad. But after the completion of the dredging of the turning basin the ferry boats could take a more safe route and the dangers which then existed do not exist at present. Of course, it is still a longer route than before but not much more dangerous. I think I said during the last Budget Session that we were considering the question of construction of a channel. We thought that with the means at our disposal it was very difficult to dredge about 4000 or 5000 feet with our small dredger. I, then wanted to know whether the Harbour authorities would be willing to dredge the channel. This matter was referred to the Harbour Engineer and he was of opinion that in case he undertook to do it the cost would be Rs. 1,50,000 and that he was not sure whether the Madras Government would sanction this proposal. The area to be dredged is being too shallow, fears were expres-

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sed as to whether the vessel might get stranded during work. So, the question of dredging the channel by means of the dredger 'Lord Willingdon' had to be dropped. In the matter of ensuring safety to passengers, therefore, we decided a thorough inspection of boats and supervision of their body conditions, etc., which was then the only course for us to take. I then decided that we shall inspect the boats very rigorously and inspect the loading of passengers and it was the only way which we can possibly do. For, it will be seen that to spend Rs. 1,50,000 on a channel which may get silted up, according to the Harbour Engineer, was a very unwise thing to do, especially considering the fact that a bridge is to be constructed during the next 3 or 4 years which will have provision for vehicular traffic also. These were the reasons why we have not taken up the work yet of dredging the Venduruthy channel. I have, however, received orders from the Government to try an experiment with our small dredger to construct a channel if possible, and I am making arrangements for it.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—In the face of the assurance that is given by the Government Member I do not wish to press the motion.

The motion was withdrawn with leave of the House.

President's concluding Remarks.

President —Before we adjourn, I should like to thank you all for the kind support you have given me. Now we shall adjourn.

The Session was adjourned at 2' past 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,

Secretary to the Council.